



17 May 2007

## Memorial Day Message

1. Memorial Day is our most solemn of national holidays. It is a day to pause and honor the memory of those departed who have served our country while in uniform. Persons who came from all walks of life, from every corner of our great land – fathers, sons, mothers, and daughters – they were ordinary people, living ordinary lives, who were asked to make the ultimate sacrifice in extraordinary times. Each bravely answered the call to duty. They answered the call for a higher purpose – to preserve liberty, justice, equality and the right to live in a world free from tyranny. This is the same call that has gone out to several generations of Americans.

2. Memorial Day, originally called Decoration Day, was first established as a day to honor those who served in the Civil War. Today we honor all members of the armed forces who have died while serving our country. In reflecting on their lives, we are awestruck by their devotion to duty and for the legacy they have left for us to fulfill.

3. We must remember this time of year also marks the beginning of summer. Many of our 2ID Soldiers, Airmen and civilians will travel in Korea and off the peninsula. This is a time to enjoy leisure activities and much deserved relaxation, but I want to impress on you the need to keep safety at the forefront of your mind. We have the responsibility to provide a place where America's sons and daughters and the Republic of Korea citizens can work, live and enjoy recreational activities in a safe and secure environment. Don't let accidents, injuries and ill-disciplined behavior spoil what should be an enjoyable time with Family and friends. Strong emphasis should be placed on the following:

- **Alcohol consumption** – We are required to maintain a high state of readiness at all times. Irresponsible alcohol consumption is harmful to that readiness and could jeopardize the important relationship we maintain with the Republic of Korea. Drunkenness and disorderly behavior do not reflect Army values and our standards, nor does it honor those we remember this holiday. If you consume alcohol, do so responsibly and remember that the 0.10 Blood Alcohol Content (BAC) policy remains in effect. [2ID Policy Letter # 8, Responsible Alcohol Consumption.](#)
- **“Under the Oak Tree Counseling”** – This is an active Soldier and leader engagement imperative. Commanders and supervisors, you are accountable and responsible for knowing your Soldiers on/off-duty activities, the composite risks associated with those activities, and measures to mitigate those risks. No one will be released for the long weekend until they have received personal “Under the Oak Tree Counseling” by their first line supervisor. [2ID Policy Letter # 2, Command Safety.](#)

***Answering The Nation's Call To Duty!***

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- **Battle Buddy** – Force protection and the safety of 2ID personnel and our friends in the surrounding communities are paramount. We have a duty and responsibility to protect one another from harm and irresponsible behavior. Serving as a “battle buddy” is our commitment to the Warrior Ethos where it says we will “never leave a fallen comrade.” Encourage the “buddy system.” [2ID Policy Letter #6, Buddy System](#). Being a good battle buddy means to watch out, protect and intervene when your buddy may be headed for trouble.

- **Disciplined Behavior** - Demonstrating indiscipline behavior will not be tolerated. While traveling through the country, take time to reflect on the significance of this national holiday and conduct yourselves in a responsible manner.

4. Lastly, our mission to defend freedom lives on – strengthened by our eternal memory of all American patriots who gave their lives to preserve peace and democracy for us all. Thanks to America’s finest Servicemembers freedom endures. The words that adorn the entrance to Arlington National Cemetery reads: “Not for fame or reward, not for place or rank, not lured by ambition or goaded by necessity, but in simple obedience to duty as they understood it, these men suffered all, sacrificed all, dared all and died.” The men and women who have made the ultimate sacrifice for our country live forever in our memories.

5. Thank you for your personal sacrifices and as we enjoy this Memorial Day Holiday, let’s continue to honor and respect those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service to our country. Stay safe and incident free. Second to None!

  
James A. Coggin  
MG, USA  
Commanding

*Answering The Nation’s Call To Duty!*

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